

MINUTES OF FRIENDS OF THE TRIANGLE ALDCLIFFE ROAD, MEETING held on 11th January 2016

Present: Dave Brookes, Peter Callingham, Mike Swan, Jane Swan, Gillian Allen, Martin Luke, Sheila Bliss, Cathy Barton, Frances Tordoff.

1. Apologies: Geoff Easton.

2. Minutes of last meeting: minutes of 19th October 2015 meeting were approved without change.

3. Recent developments: a) a Geocache has been positioned in a far corner of the Triangle which children can search for and open to substitute an object, and write their name and date of discovery.

b) A start has been made on applying a Fungicide treatment to the timbers of the pergola which will be continued as weather permits.

c) Dave recently discussed planting for the buttress and planned raised beds with David Redmore who advised that fig tree(s) would be suitable on the buttress, perhaps with herbs along the front edge, space permitting; while dwarf fruit trees should be more successful in the raised beds along with bush and cane fruits, strawberries and some vegetables and/or more herbs.

d) The number and layout of raised beds had been marked out and discussed at yesterday's volunteer session and met with general approval. Dave will look into costings of sleepers, soil/compost and lining material with a view to a funding bid. See below.

4) Further requirements: a) we still need to find a contractor to complete the appropriate finished pointing to the lowered towpath wall. Dave to contact possible contractors and obtain quotes.

b) New or replacement railings still need to be sourced and costed in order to re-instate this feature in the required gaps of the towpath wall.

c) Due to the difference in level between the canal towpath and the Triangle site at the new eastern entrance, it is necessary to construct two steps using existing stone. This is to be assessed as to whether the work involved can be done by volunteers or requires a contractor. Steps up onto the buttress will also be needed but is likely to be a more complicated task that may need professional advice or involvement.

d) A gently curving path through the Triangle linking the two entrances also needs to be constructed including a low stone retaining wall at its eastern end. This too will need to be assessed as a possible volunteer task using some materials available on site.

5) Funding: a) Dave reported that Tesco has a fund (from the sale of plastic bags) for community projects to which we could apply for and awards either £8K, £10K or £12K. After discussion of various items it was agreed that Dave would put in a bid for the cost of railway sleepers for our raised beds, linings, soil and plants, by the end of this week.

b) Lancaster University Wind Turbine Community Fund is also seeking bids for community projects up to £10k, to which we could bid for the cost of iron railings to re-instate this feature in the remaining gaps in the towpath wall. Sourcing and costing additional railings will be required before a bid can be submitted though there is insufficient time now

before the closing date of 15th Jan. 2016. There is only be one round of grant applications each year, with bids submitted between Nov. '16 and mid-Jan. '17.

c) Our own funds currently stand at £1,098-01p which could cover the cost of finishing the pointing of the lowered towpath wall. Dave to try to contact contractors for quotes, with the work to be done in early spring.

6) Events: after some discussion it was decided that the next Triangle Fair should be held in late May so as to not be too close to the Fairfield Association Fun Day in Early July, and avoiding the Spring Bank week-end and half-term school holiday, with 21st May being the proposed date. We need to confirm that Duncan and Liz would be able to run the BBQ on that date, with the event being similar to our previous Fairs with a drinks and cake stall, games, a raffle, book stall and live music, plus any other suitable ideas.

7) Other matters:

a) Dave is very busy with other commitments and asked if others could help with various tasks. Frances offered to help with emailing volunteers, etc. Dave will also be away during the month of April.

b) It was agreed that Triangle Meetings should continue to be held on the first Monday of each month (at Mike and Jane's until it is warm enough to use the Triangle workshop) and that volunteer sessions should take place on the third Sunday of each month, with small groups doing other tasks as required in between.

8) Date of next meeting: to be held on **Monday 1st February 2016 at 7.30 p.m.** At 61 Regent Street (Jane and Mike's). All welcome.

9) Date of next volunteer session: **Sunday 17th January 2016, 2 - 4 pm**, weather permitting, when construction of two sets of steps, and a low retaining wall to the proposed pathway and wild flower area can be assessed. Plus more ivy to be taken off the high end wall and more consideration of a combined sun dial and bird bath to be sited within the Triangle.